**Chattanooga to host Quilt**

by DAVID MCCOLLOUGH Contributing Writer

Chattanooga CARES and Miller Plaza will sponsor a showing of portions of the NAMES Project National AIDS Memorial Quilt at Miller Plaza, November 26 through December 3.

The Quilt panels, each three by six feet in size, displayed in Chattanooga, will represent 208 people from throughout the southeast who have died from AIDS.

The opening will be Sunday, November 26, at 4 p.m. (EST) with a memorial and prayer service at Chattanooga CARES for information at Miller Plaza, 130 S. Market Street, Chattanooga, TN 37402, (615) 266-2422. The display is free and open to the public.

Portions of the Quilt were displayed earlier this year in Nashville on two separate occasions, first at East Tennessee display — DARE FILE PHOTO

**Number of HIV-positive homeless growing**

Mobile Outreach Team warns of need for attention, education

by JACKI MOSS Staff Writer

As if the homeless don't already have enough to contend with, there seems to be a growing number of them who may be HIV-positive.

The numbers are not firm, nor are they astronomical, experts say, but all things considered, the number of homeless people who are HIV-positive will probably skyrocket in the future.

According to Sharon Byers, a psychiatric nurse clinician with Nashville's Mobile Outreach Team, there is an approximately three-to-one ratio of men to women on the streets of Nashville.

"We usually deal with a population that has a history of mental illness and drug abuse that cause dementia, but recently we have seen a couple of cases that got our attention because there didn't seem to be a background of mental illness. It just looks like their lives fell apart after an illness," Byers said.

"We have met a couple of people who have told us that they are HIV-positive and they showed symptoms of dementia which we suppose to be AIDS-related," she added.

"We see many other people who show signs of HIV infection. When we talk with them we look for the ARC or AIDS-related changes and always try to persuade them to be tested."

Byers' team tried to help both individuals who claimed to be HIV-positive, but were unsuccessful. One refused assistance and the other disappeared.

An abundance of high-risk factors among homeless people places them at extreme risk for ARC and/or AIDS.

"There are a lot of risk factors among the homeless. Intravenous IV drug abuse is very common and they share needles and use dirty needles very often. Some of their sexual practices are certainly less than safe and they often prostitute for drugs or whatever it is they need to survive that day," she said.

**Group, clergy go after porn first**

Ex-ambassador Rodgers leads Nashville anti-porn forces

by JEFF ELLIS Editor

In what was termed the largest such meeting of its kind ever to be held in Nashville, some 400 members of the clergy — representing Catholics, Protestants, Jews and Mormons — vowed Tuesday to support efforts by the Joe Rodgers-led Nashville Coalition Against Pornography (NCAP) to rid the state's capital city of hardcore pornography.

Clergy members promised NCAP leaders they would circulate petitions and help raise some $300,000 earmarked for a media campaign to rid the city of what was termed "obscene videos and child pornography."

Led by former U.S. Ambassador to France Rodgers, NCAP has as its goal the closing down of adult bookstores and video arcades and the removal of sexually-explicit videotapes from the shelves of Nashville's 90-plus "family" video rental stores.

Plans call for the launch of the media campaign early in 1990, according to NCAP spokespeople. Clergy members taking part in Tuesday's meeting agreed to address pornography in their sermons slated for the week of January 14, 1990. A rally to be held February 1 at the Grand Ole Opry House was also supported by those in attendance.

Some 270 local congregations were represented at the breakfast meeting at the posh Opryland Hotel. The coalition of churches to fight pornography has been likened by some observers to a group which was instrumental in defeating the horse racing referendum in Metropolitan Davidson County in 1987 and 1988.

Jerry Kirk, head of the Cincinnati, Ohio-based National Coalition Against Pornography, praised local efforts, calling Nashville's "the best organized anti-pornography campaign I know of."

"It's a citizens' campaign, not a religious campaign," Kirk said, apparently disregarding the 400 clergy members at the meeting.

The Nashville effort has been gaining steam since early 1989 when NCAP was first organized.

Local leaders looked to the success of a similar group in Chattanooga for inspiration in planning their offensive, according to NCAP.

**Knoxville workshop focuses on homophobia**

by MICHAEL SANDERS Staff Writer

A Catholic nun and priest who have been speaking and writing on the topic of homosexuality in the U.S. and abroad since 1971, stressed a distinction between homophobia and what they termed "homonegativity" at an October 30 seminar in Knoxville.

The seminar on "Homophobia and Religion in Society" at Knoxville's Immaculate Conception Catholic Church also addressed the issue of the effects of homophobia and homonegativity on lesbians and gay men.

Jeanine Gramick and Robert Nugent, the facilitators, defined homophobia as an irrational fear of homosexuals and homosexuality. A homophobic reaction, then, is a very strong negative emotional response to the idea of homosexuality as well as to all perceived homosexual behavior.

Gramick and Nugent cited the example of a recent District of Columbia incident in which a heterosexual couple were attacked because the woman was mistaken for a man. They said that people suffering from homophobia are likely to engage in active homosexual persecution and that they do so because they've been told homosexuality is wrong.

In contrast, Gramick and Nugent defined homonegativity as being a less strong and less damaging form of prejudice. They said homonegativity is "a more subtle"

**Starting next week: eightysomething**

—an eight-part look back at the 1980s

**Inside Dare this week**


How to survive the holidays. Coping, page 10.

Michelle, we're truly shocked! Loose Lips, page 12.
**D A T E S**

**Just like clockwork**

**Chattanooga**

**Sundays**

Metropolitan Community Church  
Worship service, Unitarian Church. 7:30pm.

**Mondays**

Chattanooga CARES  
Closed support group. 6:30pm. Info (901) 260-2422.

**Thursdays**

Gay/Lesbian AA  
Open meeting, Unitarian Church. 8pm.

**Clarksdale**

**Thursdays**

OSU Austin Peay State University  
Organization for Support of Gay & Lesbians, group for lesbians and gay men. Room 4, Archwood, APSU. 4pm. Info (615) 948-7077.

**Knoxville**

**Sundays**

Metropolitan Community Church  
Worship service, 6pm. Corner Weisgarber & Lona. Info (865) 521-6546.

**Mondays**

aids Response Knoxville  
PWA Support Group. 7-8:30pm. Info (865) 523-AIDS.

Gay Gratitude Group  
Open, nonsmoking. Alcoholic Anonymous. Tennessee Valley Unitarian Church, 2191 Kingston Pike. 7pm.

**Tuesdays**

aids Response Knoxville  
Circle of Love family and friends support group. 8pm. Info (865) 523-AIDS.

Gay and Lesbian Student Union/JUTI  
Weekly meeting. 6pm. Info (865) 529-4666.

Knoxville’s Ten Percent  
Monthly meeting. 2nd Tuesday only. 8:00pm. N Central. Info (865) 521-6546.

**Wednesdays**

aids Response Knoxville  
HIV + Support Group. 6:30pm. Info (865) 523-AIDS.

**Fridays**

Gay Gratitude Group  

Lesbian and Gay Student Association  
Support group for lesbian and gay students, faculty, staff and alumni of Middle Tennessee State University. 7:30pm. Info (615) 352-7039.

**Memphis**

**Mondays**

Gay Alternative Hour  
Radio show, WEVL-FM 90, 6-7pm.

Memphis Gay Coalition  

Phoenix (Gay Alcoholics Anonymous)  
Open meeting, Memphis Lamba Center. 8pm. Info (901) 272-0649.

**Tuesdays**

Phoenix (Gay Alcoholics Anonymous)  
Open meeting, Memphis Lamba Center. 5:30 and 8pm. Info (901) 272-0649.

**Wednesdays**

Phoenix (Gay Alcoholics Anonymous)  
Open meeting, Memphis Lamba Center. 8pm. Info (901) 272-0649.

**Thursdays**

P-FLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays)  
Support group. St. John’s Episcopal Church, 322 S Ger. 1st Thursday only. Info (901) 781-1444.

Phoenix (Gay Alcoholics Anonymous)  
Open meeting, Memphis Lamba Center. 7:30pm. Info (901) 272-0649.

**Into the Light** (Women’s Alcoholics Anonymous)  
Meeting, Memphis Lamba Center. 6pm. Info (901) 276-7279.

**Fridays**

Phoenix (Gay Alcoholics Anonymous)  
Open meeting, Memphis Lamba Center. 3:30 and 10pm. Info (901) 272-0649.

Seriously Sober (Gay Alcoholics Anonymous)  
Meeting, Memphis Lamba Center. 6pm. Info (901) 272-0649.

**Saturdays**

Twisted Sisters (ACOA)  
Open meeting, Memphis Lamba Center. Noon. Info (901) 276-7376.

Phoenix (Gay Alcoholics Anonymous)  
Open meeting, Memphis Lamba Center. 8pm. Info (901) 272-0649.

**Sundays**

Agape Now Life Church  
Sunday School, 9:30am. Worship service, 11am. Info (901) 776-1872.

Holy Trinity Community Church  
Worship service, 11am, 12:15 Forest Ave. Info (901) 726-9443.

Into the Light (Women’s Alcoholics Anonymous)  

Phoenix (Gay Alcoholics Anonymous)  
Open meeting, Memphis Lamba Center. 8pm. Info (901) 272-0649.

**Murfreesboro**

**Thursdays**

MTSU Lambda  
Support group for lesbian and gay students, faculty, staff and alumni of Middle Tennessee State University. 7:30pm. Info (615) 352-7039.

**Nashville**

**Mondays**

Nashville CARES  
ARC/AIDS Support Group. 6:30pm. Info (615) 386-1510.

Lambda Group  
Closed Alcoholics Anonymous meeting for gay men and lesbians. Unitarian Church. 8pm.

MAGNET (Married and Gay Network)  
Support group for married gay men. 1st & 3rd Mondays only. 7:30pm. (615)320-0289.

**Tuesdays**

Nashville CARES  
HIV + Support Group. 6pm. Info (615) 386-1510.

Vanderbilt AIDS Project  
Story and Poetry Support Group for PMAs. West End United Methodist Church, 6:30pm. Info (615) 252-2252.

Al-Anon Closed meeting. 6pm. Info (615) 272-0649.

Nashville Women’s Alliance Meeting  
Tuesdays only. 6pm. Info (615) 595-1867.

**Thursdays**

Nashville CARES  
ARC/AIDS Support Group. 6:30pm. Info (615) 386-1510.

Supporting Sisters  
Lesbians Anonymous meeting. 8pm. Info (615) 272-0654.

**Big events**

**Tuesday, November 14**  
Meeting  
Music City Sports Association  
general meeting, at Warehouse 28, 2529 Franklin Rd, Nashville. Free. 6:30pm.

**Sunday, November 19**  
Seminar  
Caring for Persons with AIDS in the Home. Sponsored by aids Response Knoxville (APR) and the American Red Cross, At Red Cross Bldg, Knoxville. $15 registration. 12:30-5pm. Info (615) 523-AIDS.

**Monday, November 20**  
Concentration Raising  
The RACE (Religious Attitudes and Concerns) Series Discussion group. Sponsored by Black & White Men Together/Memphis. 7:30pm. Info (901) 726-1461.

**Thursday, November 23**  
Thanksgiving Day  
Potluck Dinner  
Sponsored by Black & White Men Together/Memphis. 4pm. Info (901) 452-5894.

**Monday, November 27**  
Planning meeting  
For Pride 90 celebration. At 1503-B Ashwood Ave, Nashville, Info (615) 297-4653.

**Thursday, November 30**  
Film  
Cruising. Discussion follows. Sponsored by Vanderbilt Lambda, at Hear Library Classroom, 21st Ave South, Nashville. $1 donation. 8pm. Info (615) 292-5554.

**Saturday, November 2**  
Craft Show  
Women artisans, sponsored by Nashville Women’s Alliance, at Unitarian Universalist Church, 1802 Woodmont Blvd, Nashville. Free admission. 2-6pm. Info (615) 269-9670.
HRCF supports pro-choice march

WASHINGTON — The Human Rights Campaign Fund (HRCF), a national advocacy group for lesbian and gay rights, has joined a coalition of groups supporting the Mobilization for Women's Lives, a pro-choice event planned for this Sunday, Nov. 12.

Plans for the event include a march on Washington and actions in individual states. Supporters of the Mobilization include the American Civil Liberties Union, the National Organization for Women, and the National Abortion Rights League.

"To a large extent, women's rights issues are gay and lesbian civil rights issues," said Tim McFeeley, HRCF executive director. "By working in coalition with women's and civil rights groups, we not only advance efforts toward equality in general, but specifically for gays, lesbians, and people with AIDS." •

Settlement reached in insurance suit

NEW YORK — United Services Life Insurance Company has settled out of court in a lawsuit brought by a student who alleged that he was asked to pay a higher premium for a life insurance policy because he was perceived to be gay.

"John Doe," a heterosexual graduate student, claimed he was asked to pay more because he fits a gay demographic profile. United Services Life said it had no policy of discriminating on the basis of sexual orientation, and claimed they asked Doe to pay a higher premium because of an elevated liver enzyme test.

In the settlement announced by the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, which helped represent Doe, the insurance company agreed to follow the National Association of Insurance Commissioners' "Guidelines for Underwriting AIDS," which prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. However, the company did not admit Doe's claims were true and said it settled only to avoid the costs of a lawsuit. •

Bigotry lures recruits

ATLANTA — A report from the Center for Democratic Renewal (CDR) ties increases in violence against lesbians and gays to far right and white supremacist groups that are using anti-gay bigotry to attract new recruits.

The report, entitled Quarantines and Death: The Far Right's Homophobic Agenda, was written by CDR research director Leonard Zeskind and noted human rights activist Mab Segrest.

"The Christian new right maintains that AIDS is a punishment sent by God for the sin of homosexuality," said Zeskind. "Whatever the perception, a steady stream of murders and assaults has been the result."

According to Daniel Levitas, CDR executive director, the 40-page report "describes the theoretical framework of the far right's homophobic agenda and outlines the basic steps needed to confront anti-gay bigotry." •

Prize coordinators meet

VANCOUVER, Canada — The International Association of Lesbian/Gay Pride Coordinators (IALGPC) held its Eighth Annual Conference here to discuss issues and make plans for future Lesbian/Gay Pride events.

The organization set up a hotline for individuals interested in establishing Pride events in their communities. Those who call (612) 336-4111 will be put in touch with IALGPC members with expertise in planning marches, parades, festivities and rallies.

The group also chose "Look to the Future" as the Lesbian/Gay Pride slogan for 1990, and began plans for an international Pride rally on June 26, 1994 to mark the 25th anniversary of the Stonewall riots. They also confirmed their support for the boycott of Coors products and the right of choice in regard to abortion. •

Myth #1: Chiropractors aren't really doctors.

This old saw has been floating around for years. The truth is that chiropractors must complete at least six years of specialized training, earning a doctorate. A general practitioner is a doctor. And so is a chiropractor. Insurance accepted.

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**...group targets porn**

**continued from page 1**

The spokesperson for the World AIDS Day Coalition, an ad hoc group of lesbian and gay and AIDS service and advocacy organizations, announced plans for a major civil disobedience action at the White House on Friday, Dec. 1, to call attention to failures in the federal response to the AIDS epidemic.

The coalition released a "Call to Action" with demands that include "Leadership from President Bush, Secretary of Health and Human Services Louis Sullivan and the Congress..." and "Access to necessary treatments and early interventions NOW for all people with HIV infection regardless of sex, race, sexual orientation, age or economic status."

"Only leadership at the highest levels of our government can command the resources to address the ever growing crisis," claims the document. December 1 has been declared World AIDS Day by the World Health Organization.

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**...Knoxville homophobia seminar**

**continued from page 1**

**HIV among homeless**

**continued from page 3**

Byers said that in general homeless people who place others at risk for HIV do not mean to hurt people.

"How they see things is very messed up and they have needs that they have to meet in some fashion, so they use those means to that end," she said.

The Mobile Outreach Team is funded by a grant from the National Institute of Mental Health to provide aggressive outreach to people who are chronically mentally ill and homeless. The services range from psycho-social assessment and counseling, to physical health, housing assistance and education.

"We do try to teach people about AIDS and how to use bleach and clean their works (drug-using apparatus). We also give out condoms," Byers said.

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A homonegative attitude is one that would accept homosexuality, but would see it as "non-normative," Gramick and Nugent explained. A person engaged in homonegativity might suggest that while homosexuals are okay ("Some of my best friends...") the actual mistreatment of homosexual impulses is not okay. This person might suggest that homosexuals should remain celibate or that homosexuals should never express affection in public, the two said.

This attitude would also include a refusal to equate the risks of heterosexual and homosexual relationships.

Homonegative people were further characterized by Gramick and Nugent as likely to be authoritarian, fundamentalist in religious matters, status conscious, intolerant of ambiguity and hold traditional attitudes toward women, family and sexuality in general. Such people would likely view all deviate behavior as immoral, they added.

Gammick and Nugent also said it was not uncommon for lesbians and gay men to hold homonegative attitudes toward themselves and other homosexuals since they are products of a predominantly homonegative society.

Gammick and Nugent stressed that the seminar, sponsored by the Center for Homonegativity Education (CHE) in New York, is designed for people who might be able to disseminate the information provided in the course of their work. Individuals in the clergy, educators, counselors, and peace and justice activists might be especially interested in hosting seminars in their community, they said.

Information is available to interested groups by writing to CHE, Box 1985, New York, New York, 10059.

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**...continues from page 2**

The Chattanooga group was responsible for closing down city's adult bookstores and video arcades. After that, the group focused its attention on attempts to close the city's lesbian and gay bars, sources say, although they were unsuccessful. Some adult bookstores have reopened in the Chattanooga area but they do not have private viewing booths.

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**...continues from page 2**

AIDS civil disobedience planned

The World AIDS Day Coalition, an ad hoc group of lesbian and gay and AIDS service and advocacy organizations, announced plans for a major civil disobedience action at the White House on Friday, Dec. 1, to call attention to failures in the federal response to the AIDS epidemic.

The coalition released "A Call to Action" with demands that include "Leadership from President Bush, Secretary of Health and..."
**Memphis**

**Circuit opens holiday show**

This year's holiday theatre offerings get an early start when Circuit Playhouse premiers THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE.

The show opens November 9 and continues through December 23.

Based on the story of the famous First Narnian Chronicle classic by C.S. Lewis, the musical, a blending of song and fantasy, pursues the theme that unselfishness towards others is a rewarding trait of human nature.

**Knoxville**

**Romanovsky & Phillips to perform**

Ron Romanovsky and Paul Phillips, called by one critic "the traveling troubadours of the gay experience" will be presented in concert in Knoxville tonight, Friday, October 10 at 8 p.m. at the University of Tennessee Music Hall.

Co-sponsored by the Gay and Lesbian Student Union (GLSU) and Random Productions, tickets for tonight's concert are $12 at the door.

Romanovsky and Phillips are in the midst of a 45-city nationwide tour. Last night, they performed in Nashville.

They are best known for their albums, I THOUGHT YOU'D BE TALLER AND EMOTIONAL ROLLEROASTERS. The pair last played dates in the Volunteer State in 1988.

**Nashville**

**Sports association formed**


In addition to providing area softball players with an opportunity to compete in the Gay World Series, considered one of the most spectacular gay sporting events in the world, creation of MCAS will open the door to future gay sports leagues in volleyball, tennis, wrestling and other sports.

Already, MSC includes a 12-team bowling league (with league champions being determined next March) and a softball league featuring four teams representing The Chute, Warehouse 28, Juanita's and The Cabaret.

The next general meeting is set for Tuesday, November 14, at 6:30 p.m. at Warehouse 28, 2529 Franklin Road, Nashville. The meeting is open to current MCAS members and others interested in joining.

**BWMT board meets**

Members of the newly-elected board of directors of the Memphis chapter of Black and White Men Together (BWMT) met last month to set the organization's agenda for the coming year.

The ad hoc grants/finance committee reported its first objective was to apply for tax-exempt status and was in the process of pulling together the necessary components for the application. The health committee reported that the K-A-B survey for the National Task Force on AIDS Prevention was completed locally with much success.

Members of the newly-elected board of directors of the Memphis chapter of Black and White Men Together (BWMT) met last month to set the organization's agenda for the coming year.

**Kowalski honored, chosen for advanced study**

Nashville chiropractor Deborah Kowalski was honored in Atlanta last month for distinguished service in the field of chiropractic.

Kowalski also has been selected as a participating doctor in advanced study by Practice Consultants, Inc.

Kowalski has been active in the lesbian and gay community, serving as a volunteer for Gay Cable Network/Nashville.

**Chez Colette**

Chez Colette presents "Touch of Class" and Friends Saturday, November 18 $3 cover Showtimes 10 & 12

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Your silence will not protect you.
Our speaking is stopped because we fear the visibility
without which we can not really live.
— Gloria T. Hull

The triple jeopardy of being black and gay.

“Black Straight” men have always been hell on black women.
That’s because black women have always been the power in the black family.
Black women have always had to take a lot of shit from them.
So you can only imagine what a black straight man might do to a black gay woman.
She wouldn’t stand much of a chance.
I’ve known some nasty things that have happened to black gay women.

Jean’s acceptance of her lesbianism and her subsequent friendships with white lesbians all came about through her entry and involvement in the 12-step recovery process.

“For the past seven years, I have been in recovery. I attend 12-step meetings. Before I became involved in the 12-step program, I didn’t know any white lesbians. It’s only been through the program that I met and was able to become close to white lesbians,” she claims.

“So, as I stated before, all of my close friends now are white.
They're who I primarily socialize with. I didn't plan it that way, that's just how it ended up.

Didn't Jean feel out of place entering an all-white 12-step program?

"No, because at that time I had so many things to look at in my life that race was not a priority or an issue to me. Please don't be mistaken and think that the program is meant to be an all-white program. It's not. That's just how it was when I got there," she says.

"I feel very secure and accepted now by my white lesbian recovery friends. I love them all very much.

But is that enough?

"Outside of them," Jean admits. "It's very difficult and lonely for me in this community because I have a lot of fear, the fear that I'm sure most other black lesbians have, of seeing, being attracted to, and approaching a white lesbian and having them reject me simply because I'm black. Believe me, it's the most difficult type of rejection you can imagine.

"So despite my recovery and as close as my friends and I are, I still at times feel different from them because I don't think they can possibly understand this kind of fear."

"FOR INSTANCE, do you know how hard it is for a black lesbian to simply ask a white woman to dance? It's terrifying. I feel very insecure when I find myself attracted to a white woman because it's almost impossible for me to let them know of my interest. I think most black lesbians have this insecurity. They just don't feel comfortable enough to approach a white lesbian and start a conversation with them. I don't think my white lesbian friends understand this fear."

Often, that fear is exacerbated by the lack of other black faces at social events or in the crowds at gay and lesbian bars in town.

"I used to go into bars and attend events here in town all by myself, not to ask for dates, but just to hang out, and it was horrible because not one person ever walked up to me and simply said, 'Hi,' except for maybe the owner or manager," Jean remembers.

"When you're the only black face in the crowd, it's a terrible feeling. All I wanted was to feel accepted and they treated me as if I didn't even exist. Think about it. How would you react to that? How would you feel?"

"But despite" the past heartaches and the lingering fear of not fitting in, jean does see a gradual, however slow, improvement in the status quo for black lesbians.

Things are getting better," she offers. "Gay and lesbian blacks are definitely coming out more. I see a lot more, especially the younger ones, going into the white gay and lesbian establishments than I used to. The kids seem to be more confident. They're quicker to say who they are and what they are. They're less ashamed of themselves and are quicker to acknowledge their homosexuality." *

Next week: Wrapping it up.
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CURTAINS

Barefoot in Murfreesboro

reviewed by JEFF ELLIS
Editor

PROBABLY THE MOST difficult thing a theatre critic is faced with is the occasional review of a production's dress rehearsal. There is an old theatrical adage, "bad dress rehearsal, good opening night." There's the rub — it's not really fair to base one's assessment on a dress rehearsal, even if it's billed as a "preview."

But if the old adage holds true, then opening night for the Epiphany Players' production of Neil Simon's BAREFOOT IN THE PARK is a triumph. For those people who've been stranded on a deserted island and don't know what the show's about, here it is in a nutshell: Newlyweds Corie and Paul Bratter, after six days of marriage, have moved into a one-room walk-up in Greenwich Village. Their building is full of crazies, including their eccentric upstairs neighbor Victor Velasco. Corie's over-protective mother, Ethel Banks, has trouble cutting the apron strings and often drops in unannounced for a visit. It's all typical sitcom lunacy, marked by pratfalls, belly laughs, a drunk scene and a few tears.

Smith's cast includes a welcome Elisabeth Dugger as the impetuous Corie; a confident Robin Overbey as the reserved Paul; Jon Friedman as the slightly off-the-beam Victor; Dorothy Harrison as the staid Mrs. Banks; and Michael Fletcher as an acerbic telephone repairman.

Dugger captures the essence of her character with a sweetly winning performance that rings with a natural resonance. She's altogether believable as Corie. Overbey is a confident impetuous Corie; a confident Paul — horrible wardrobe notwithstanding — and certainly knows how to milk an audience for its laughs. Friedman's on-the-mark performance is ideally suited to Victor Velasco's slightly skewed personality, playing Victor with just the right amount of craziness. Harrison plays Mrs. Banks with her expected style and grace, but displays enough confidence to take comedic chances, imbuing her character with wit and charm. *

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Ghosts

GHOSTS. By Henrik Ibsen. Directed by F. Elizabeth Parker.
reviewed by JEFF ELLIS
Editor

Though it was first produced on Broadway, some 25 or so years ago, Neil Simon's BAREFOOT IN THE PARK has been done all over the world, in countless dinner and community theatres, as a television sitcom and as a successful movie that starred Jane Fonda and Robert Redford.

It's a laugh-filled two acts about newlyweds and life after the honeymoon, nosy neighbors and possessive mothers-in-law. Laugh for laugh, Simon is probably the comedy box-office champ. But BAREFOOT, what with all its incarnations, has begun to show its age.

That doesn't deter the cast of Murfreesboro Little Theatre's current mounting of the show from doing their best to breathe new life into the tired characters and situations. They succeed more often than not, but it might take a complete transfusion to make this creaky old warhorse of a play truly satisfying.

Luckily, though, there is that winning cast, a group of new faces and veterans that make you remember what community theatre has always been about. Director Ralph Smith puts his five member ensemble through any rehearsal, even if it's billed as a "preview." There's the rub — it's not really fair to base one's assessment on a dress rehearsal, even if it's billed as a "preview."

But if the old adage holds true, then opening night for the Epiphany Players' production of Henrik Ibsen's GHOSTS was wonderful. The dress rehearsal I saw, however, was dismal, full of dropped lines and miscues performed by an eager-to-please cast that was, unfortunately, not up to the task of creating believable Norwegian characters.

The blame cannot be heaped upon the director, the cast or the crew (well, I guess it could, but I like to sleep nights) since they were best by the flu which sidelined several members throughout the rehearsal period. Presented as a benefit for Vanderbilt AIDS Project, the production's heart was definitely in the right place and I've no doubt that director F. Elizabeth Parker is a fine director (that was apparent in the show's pace and blocking).

Set in Norway in 1881, GHOSTS tells the story of the dysfunctional Alving family and the people who venture into their lives. There is Helene (Linda Sparks), the matriarch, struggling to provide for her son, Osvald (Jay Cave), who's an artist suffering from syphilis. Not very far away, either in the words of the characters or in the portrait hanging above the fireplace, is Helene's late mother, Annette (Vera Soutter), who has been dead some 25 years.

Soutter's is an old theatrical adage, "bad dress rehearsal, good opening night." There's the rub — it's not really fair to base one's assessment on a dress rehearsal, even if it's billed as a "preview."

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Another tale of the city

THEY'RE BAAAAACK!
That's the warning to all aficionados of Armistead Maupin's TALES OF THE CITY series. In SURE OF YOU, his sixth and final entry, Maupin takes one last swoop at involving his readers in the lives of his San Francisco zanyes.

Maupin keeps up his usual pop writing style, casually dropping in items to identify the late 1980s: several characters have beepers to remind them to take their AZT, there are references to popular talk show hosts, characters drink Calistoga. In all of Maupin's stories, such references help include readers in what the characters are doing, and date the books to fit the series.

There are no surprises in Maupin's style, and that's probably exactly what his fans want. We go back to Barbary Lane and Mrs. Madrigal, where the original book began. Her tenants from the 1970s are now scattered about San Francisco and England, and Maupin brings them back for a tale of love, disappointment, reconstructed lives and impending death.

Much of SURE OF YOU centers around Mary Ann Singleton and her husband Brian. Mary Ann is now a successful talk show host over her head in interviews with people like the woman who has her pets stuffed — and brings a specimen with her to the show.

We're also treated to glimpses of Mary Ann and Brian's daughter Shawna, inherited from Mary Ann's high school friend Connie. Maupin does a persuasive job of making us feel sorry for the little girl, who doesn't seem to see enough of her star-struck mother, while also showing us a brat who knows how to manipulate her yuppie parents.

Just across the street from Mary Ann and Brian's penthouse apartment, Mrs. Madrigal is packing to go off to Greece with her daughter Mona. Their adventure gives Maupin a chance to develop an entirely different story, a technique he uses successfully in each

... Ghosts
* continued from page 8

husband, a drunken, womanizing tyrant who made life hell for his wife and child. Trying to keep up appearances, Helene has endowed an orphanage that is to be dedicated in her name.

Pastor Manders (Lane Wright), who has been Helene's business adviser through the years, has come to the estate to take part in the ceremonies. Into this milieu, add the characters of Regina Engstrand (Michelle Thompson), a young maid in the Alving house, and her father Jakob Engstrand (Dan McMillin), a carpenter working on the orphanage.

What transpires is an often hard to follow story that delivers a rather potent historical message, a chilling reminder of how much things remain the same despite the changes of the past 100 years. Unfortunately, the performances were so uneven that learning that important history lesson is painfully difficult.

Lane Wright delivers, by far, the best performance of the evening, although at times he seemed far too reserved — even for the pastor. Linda Sparks' somewhat tentative performance is marred by her sometimes shrill delivery and the melodramatic overtones of her character. In the pivotal role of Oswald, Jay Cave was much too self-conscious, giving a performance that's affected and stilted, ruined by an arch staginess.

... TERRY J. VANDER HEYDEN

There are no surprises in Maupin's style, and that's probably exactly what his fans want...Still, readers can't help but get pulled into it.

Terry J. Vander Heyden is the Austin-American Statesman's theater critic.
VIEWS

Thirtysomething else altogether

by JEFF ELLIS

Editor

DID YOU SEE THIRTY-SOMETHING this week?
If not, you missed what may have been a first for a continuing television dramatic series—a natural, frank, honest portrayal of a gay male relationship.

Heretofore, television's portrayals of lesbians and gay men have been one-shot episodes that treated the subject as an "issue of the week" or as little more than a tagline or description for an otherwise unremarkable, and not very gay, character.

But in Tuesday's THIRTY-SOMETHING episode, the writers created situations and dialogue that were fairly ringing with truth.

The episode dealt with Russell, the gay artist friend of series regular Melissa Steadman (Emmy winner Melanie Mayron), a character introduced last season and seen rather sporadically in subsequent episodes. Last year, he mainly played the foil and confidant to Melissa's somewhat bohemian photographer character. This season, however, the writers have chosen to delve more deeply in Russell's character, and in so doing, they are presenting a more provocative consideration of lesbian and gay life.

The situation presented Tuesday night had Russell meeting an attractive, gay, art director named Peter at the ad agency where souls and Michael Steadman (Melissa's cousin) works. Melissa immediately picked up on the attraction between the two and urged heterosexual Michael to "fix them up."

"What do I do?" Michael asked.

"I don't know," Melissa answered. "Something that's the equivalent to 'look at those hooters!'"

"So he did. And Russell and Peter had dinner, talked about art and ended up in bed. That's right, in bed. Together. On network TV.

But what was most remarkable was not that they were in bed, but that they were having a conversation two gay men would probably have during the "afterglow."

THEY TALKED ABOUT their realization they were gay, about coming out, about gay relationships and about AIDS. Although I hate to use the term—mainly because it will make the whole thing sound hopelessly maudlin—it was really sweet.

Melissa and Russell, during their talk about the date, had a wonderful conversation filled with things real quers say like, "Do you think he's too queer?" and "I look like a faggot with a paintbrush." That self-deprecation was appreciated because we knew where it was coming from.

Where Russell and Peter's relationship is going, we don't know and the producers aren't yet telling. But, hopefully, we'll see more of them as the season progresses.

Obviously, the producers and the ABC television network have felt some heat from the fundamentalist right-wingers who like to make these things their business. Maybe we should make it our business by letting the folks at THIRTY-SOMETHING know what we think about it. *

Dare

TENNESSEE'S LESBIAN AND GAY NEWSWEEKLY

"I am the Queen that dare not speak its name.
—Lord Alfred Douglas, "The Two Lovers," 1892

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Publisher

STUART BEVIN

Editor

JEFF ELLIS

Book Editor

SHERRE DRYDEN

Staff Writers

LYNNIE BACHLEDA · JOE MAROHL

JACKI MOSE · MICHAEL SANDERS · LAURA TEK

Contributors

SUZAN BERNINGA · STEVEN DAVIDSON

NANCY LYNN DEFENF · GEORGE GRAHAM

LELA HAINES · DAVED MCCULLOUGH

JIM ROGHE

Circulation

SANDY ROSSLE

Advertising Sales

KEVIN BASS · BRIAN HULSE

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PYRAMID

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Dare

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COPING

Making it through the holidays

by STEVEN DAVIDSON

Contributing Writer

THIS IS THE TIME of year when most of us are considering such festive things as decking the halls and donning gay apparel. But for some the holidays may not be very "gay" after all.

Seasonal holidays such as Thanksgiving, Hanukkah, Christmas and New Year's Day seem to carry emotional intensity for many people. We are socialized to expect these occasions to be happy times filled with lots of warmth, fellowship and family love. The reality, however, many often be very different.

Many factors influence our mood and our attitude at this time of year. Memories of previous holidays, good and bad, will affect how we deal with these same holidays in the present and future. We may find ourselves reflecting on losses of loved ones through death or the break-up of relationships.

If you are anticipating that the holidays will be difficult, then plan now to make them as pleasant as possible. Surround yourself with people who care about you and can be supportive and understanding. Let them know that this is a difficult time for you. Perhaps the holidays will be less of a loss in your life and will welcome your support as well.

Don't struggle to pretend you are happy if you are not. Grief and sadness are normal emotions and are a natural part of recovering from a painful loss. Suppressing these feelings may only prolong your emotional healing. Some people may even try ignoring the holidays by pretending they don't exist. This isn't the healthiest of options and certainly not the easiest, but it is an option.

To make this choice a success, treat the holiday like any other day. Plan activities that aren't holiday oriented, such as reading a book or catching up on housework. Eat non-traditional foods like pizza or hamburgers instead of foods like turkey and dressing. You might consider avoiding restaurants and shopping malls. Holiday reminders (decorations, music and the occasional fat man in a red suit) are everywhere.

Another big issue is how to deal with family. Many lesbians and gay men will feel obligated to be with family during the holidays and often their families don't know about their sexual orientation or aren't accepting of it. Unfortunately, many lesbian/gay couples will spend these holidays apart in order to meet the obligations of their individual families.

Imagine it's Christmas day and here you are, listening to the racist, sexist comments of your brother-in-law and thinking of creative answers to questions like, "Why isn't a nice 35-year-old man like you married?" or "Would you like to meet my nephew, he's an accountant and you be the perfect woman for him?"

Would you like to change the scenario? Make it different. Here are some suggestions:

• If you want to be with relatives at holiday gatherings, this year tell them you will be bringing a friend along. You don't have to be totally upfront about the nature of the relationship and this could be a good way to gradually help your family begin to accept the relationship.

• Invite the folks to your place. This way you and your lover could host the holiday celebration on your own turf.

• If the idea of your family meeting your lover is too overwhelming, then tell the folks that you have made other holiday plans and spend that time with your lover or friends.

• If you will feel too guilty for spending time with people who love and accept you for who you are instead of people who love and accept you for who they want you to be, then at least decrease the amount of time you spend with family and set aside time for yourself with your lover or friends.

REGARDLESS HOW GOOD or bad past holidays have been, you do have the option to make this year's holidays — and the ones in the future — better. Start by imagining how you would like to spend the holidays and see what you can do to make it happen.

If the holiday blues seem too severe to resolve with these simple suggestions, then consider seeking professional help. It sometimes takes an objective party to help us see ourselves and our situations more clearly.

Remember that you do have options and that choices are yours to make.
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**LOOSE LIPS**

**Where y'all from, Yankee?**

"Sometimes I want to slap her. But then I want to hug her."
- Fashion designer, and king of the bugle beads, Bob Mackie, on working with Cher, who looks fabulous in his sequined gowns, but apparently can be a brat if she wants to.
- "This southern woman was at this really fancy party in New York. She turned to a northern woman seated next to her and said, "Where are y'all from?"
- The woman answered coolly, 'We're from a place where we don't end a sentence with a preposition.'
- "Oh, well, then,' the southerner replied. 'Where y'all from from?'" — Charlene Frazier, the pride of Poplar Bluff, Mo., on an early episode of CBS' hit comedy series, Sexadecimal.
- "So Julia says, I don't see what all the fuss is about. Wilma Flintstone's been wearing that outfit for years." — DESIGNING WOMEN's Suzanne Sugarbaker, repeating Jyllia Sugarbaker's reaction to the fashion buzz about Nancy Reagan's costume (a one-shoulder Galanos gown and string of pearls) for her husband's first inaugural ball, in a recent episode.
- "I don't want to be on a best dressed list. You know who's on it? Nancy Reagan. I don't want to share a column with her!"
- The inimitable, and obviously fortuna, Whoopee Goldberg, who's been named to Mr. Blackwell's annual worst-dressed list more than once, to comedian/chaHest of comedians, Joan Rivers, on the latter's new syndicated series.
- "Dan Quayle thought BOB W. VALE was a debate about how to cross the Potomac." — Comedian/musician Robin Tyler, quoted in Miami's THE WEEKLY.
- "And for every 1,000 paragraphs you read about those suffering from AIDS, you are unlikely to find a single paragraph the burden of which is: Why is the name of God did this?" — From the "Washington Whispers" column in U.S. News and World Report. For his next act, Atwater, who's been seen lately on Nashville's Music Row recording his first blues album, will talk out of the other side of his mouth, while drinking water, whistleblowing and burning an American flag. •

**Steve Huygens, 25, spent 17 hours (and $800) over a six-month period in a South Sioux City, Iowa, tattoo parlor for a tattoo of James Dean that stretches across most of his back, beginning at mid-thigh. Said Huygens, "It starts lots of conversations." He also said it hurt to have it done..." — From the syndicated K.Y. column in the Daily Mail, where y'all from, Yankee?"